

R E M A R K S

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on August 19, 2003. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 7-13, 22, and 23. Non-elected claims 1-6, 14, 15, and 24-30 are cancelled, without prejudice to their reassertion in this or a continuing application, in order to advance the prosecution of this application. Claims 16 and 17 are amended, without change of scope, in order to obviate issues raised by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112 and 37 CFR 1.75(c). No new matter has been introduced. Claims 7-13 and 16-23 are in the case.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to return to Applicants an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 that was filed on October 1, 2002.

The specification has been amended to delete confusing square brackets (that is, brackets that do not constitute parts of formulas).

Claims 16-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 and objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c). The Examiner noted that claims 16 and 17 refer to mixing solids and liquids but the base claim 7 refers to mixing gas with liquid.

Actually, claim 7 determines the amount of gas in a liquid by a method that includes measuring the volume of the gas-containing liquid under varied

conditions. Claims 16 and 17 are each drawn to applications of the method of claim 7 in which the gas-containing liquid is a liquid carrier component in a specified type of industrial process. Examples of such industrial processes are paper coating processes (claim 19) and the production of syrups (claim 21). In all such processes as they are carried out in real life, the liquid carrier component is unavoidably mixed with gas (air), which affects volume and density measurements.

This invention provides a means for correcting out the errors caused by the gas entrained in the liquid carrier, and thus provides for enhanced accuracy in adjusting the amounts of solids and/or liquids being processed in the continuous processes of the claims.

Claims 16 and 17 are hereby amended – without change of scope – in order to clarify the relationships between claims 16 and 17 on the one hand and claim 7 on the other hand. It is respectfully urged that claims 16 and 17 as amended are properly dependent from claim 7 and that they properly define the invention.

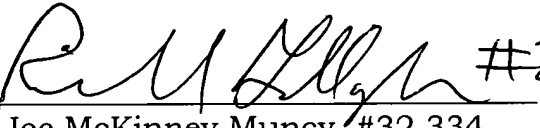
Applicants point out for the record that the present application provides a method to determine true density when it is unavailable due to entrained air in a fluid, while US 6,496,781 assumes that the measurement of true fluid density is available.

If there are any questions, please contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the (703) 205-8008.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or under 37 CFR 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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